United Nations S/PV.5708

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5708th meeting

Thursday, 28 June 2007, 1.05 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Verbeke	(Belgium)
Members:	China	Mr. Li Junhua
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Tachie-Menson
	Indonesia	Mr. Budiman
	Italy	Mr. Azzarello
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Pérez
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Sulaiti
	Russian Federation	Mr. Shcherbak
	Slovakia	Mr. Mlynár
	South Africa	Ms. Qwabe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-40295 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 1.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Sierra Leone, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Rowe (Sierra Leone) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council.

(*spoke in English*)

"The Security Council expresses its warm appreciation to the President and Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone for their briefing during the debate of the Security Council on 8 June 2007.

"The Security Council reiterates its strong support for the Special Court and commends the progress the Special Court has achieved. The Security Council particularly notes the contribution of the Special Court to strengthening stability in Sierra Leone and the subregion and bringing an end to impunity.

"The Security Council welcomes the commencement of the trial of Charles Taylor on 4 June 2007 in The Hague following the adoption of resolution 1688 (2006). The Security Council also congratulates the Special Court on handing down its first trial judgement on 21 June 2007 in the *AFRC* case.

"The Security Council also acknowledges the Special Court's progress towards achieving its completion strategy. The Security Council underlines its expectation that all organs of the Special Court will do their utmost to finish the work of the Court in accordance with the completion strategy.

"The Security Council urges the international community to continue to support the Special Court as it moves into its final stage of work, including by ensuring that the remaining fugitive indictee appears before the Court.

"The Security Council in particular takes note of the Special Court's ongoing needs for financial support. The Security Council emphasizes the vital need for further pledges of voluntary contributions in order to allow the Special Court to complete its mandate in a timely manner, and asks all United Nations Members State to consider making such pledges.

"The Security Council also notes the other varied challenges facing the Special Court as it works to fulfil its mandate, and urges States to consider supporting the Special Court by entering into appropriate arrangements with the Special Court for witness relocation and enforcement of sentences.

"The Security Council recognizes that further arrangements will be needed to address residual matters after trials and appeals are completed, including issues arising from long-term enforcement of sentences for convicted persons, the future trial of any indictees remaining at large, witness protection and the preservation of the archives of the Special Court.

"Finally, the Security Council commends the important outreach activities of the Special Court in bringing its judicial work to the attention of the people of Sierra Leone, and thereby contributing to the restoration of the rule of law throughout the country and region."

(*spoke in French*)

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2007/23.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.